



PENNSYLVANIA
WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.

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May 2, 2024 MINUTES

10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER	Spike Gyger, President
INVOCATION	Richard Denison, Chaplain
SALUTE TO COLORS	Troy Michaels, Sgt-at-Arms
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Troy Michaels, Sgt-at-Arms
ROLL CALL	Troy Michaels, Secretary

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Steve Lavelle, Woody Hogan (excused), Troy Michaels, William Whitmoyer (excused), Richard Denison, Matt Hollenbeck

AMVETS

Paul Forsman, Gerald Hawk, Kim Carson (excused), Bernie McDonald (excused)

BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

William Albert, Wanda Grover

CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

Michael Rang, Sister Mary Mathias (excused)

DISABLED AMERICAN VETS

David Gui, Timothy Alexander (excused), David Wagner (excused)

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

KEYSTONE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chris Fidler, Constance Snavely (excused), Joseph Dunn

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Diana Henry (excused)

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Nicholas Taylor, Keith Beebe, Robert Gray

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Peter Verbos (excused), Phil Arnold, Nate Thomas (excused), Bob Ardner Jr. (excused)

PA CO. DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Jesiah Schrader, Justin Slep (excused), Alvin Loveless (excused)

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

John Getz Jr. (excused), David Gyger (excused), Barbara Loncar, Fred Hechler (excused), Chuck Jackson

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

Larry Googins, Richard Hudzinski

It was determined the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council had a quorum in which to conduct business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Spike Gyger (President): At this time everybody has received the meeting minutes I will entertain a motion. Nicholas Taylor (MOAA) moves to approve the minutes as written. Michael Rang (CWV). Any question on the motion?

Jesiah Schrader PA County Director of Veterans Affairs: Page 9 my name is spelled wrong twice.

Spike Gyger (President): We will make a note of that. Any other questions? Hearing none, all in favor? Aye. Opposed? Then carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Report given by John Getz:

Spike Gyger (President): John Getz is not here so we will need approval on that.

Richard Denison (TAL): I move that we accept the Treasurer's report.

Spike Gyger (President): Motion on the floor do I have a second? Barb Loncar VFW, second got a motion on the floor and second. Any questions? Hearing none all in favor? Aye. Opposed? Then carried.

REPORT

Joel Mutchler: Good Morning everyone. Happy to be with you here today. I also want to extend a way to go to the VFW for a great Loyalty Day event yesterday was a fantastic time down there at the Capitol a lot going on down there yesterday and it was a great event. So a couple things coming up here for DMVA. So our DMVA digest is going to go through a change. So we are revamping it based upon feedback that we've received from the community. It is going to be more holistic of what the Department are doing. So it will include sections for the Air Guard and the Army Guard and obviously our Veterans from Veteran Services and programs side and outreach as well as our Veteran Homes and really kind of doing a different look to it and switching to a new platform. We are also going to be going to a monthly cadence with that instead of a weekly because of those changes. So the first one will be coming out here Memorial Day is what we are striving for. So more to come on that. Certainly encourage you if you have not signed up for the Pennsylvania Veterans registry please do so. For our homes we are at 73% occupancy across the system. Just a reminder about Homes week coming up here June 9th through the 16th. So if you have the opportunity to get out to the homes during homes week, please do so we look forward to seeing you all. Also out there in the homes we've got some career opportunities that career job fairs that will be happening for registered nurses licensed practical nurses, CNP's or CAN's rather than custodial. So the next one is coming up here at South east on May 8th and then Delaware Valley on the 15th. Additionally, you probably saw a press release related to prescription drug take backs and we are working with DDAP on that front so April 27th will be the National Prescription drug take back day. So DMVA DDAP and our partners are promoting that year around medication disposal through Pennsylvania drug take back program. You have seen the Shapiro administration did award that \$800,000 out for the VTF Veterans Trust Fund. Way to go for those organizations that are doing great work across the Commonwealth with those funds. From an outreach perspective from the DMVA side of the house we are hitting right around 5600 Veteran interactions a state fiscal year with over 300 outreach events and over 2000 referrals to be PA VET Connect partners, that is including our Federal partners, counties and nonprofits. Last thing I would note is we've got the virtual VX the Veteran experience action center, Federal VA is doing a regional VIAC coming up here May 7 to May 9. That offers one on one assistance for our Veterans through the virtual means. Similar to what we did a couple of years ago together in

partnership with the Federal VA. They are doing it on a regional basis. So that information should be in your mailboxes and there is also links on our social media so that you can cross share that as you like and I believe that is all I have to say. Thank you. It has been great, great year so far. I look forward to coming back to seeing this body in the fall

Nathan Silcox, Exec. Dir., Senate VAEP Committee: Good morning, everyone. Nate Silcox with the Senate Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Committee. First of all I come with presents for Keith Beebe. March we did the Medal of Honor service over in the State Capitol and Keith was a part of that. Keith is part of the efforts here to get the Congressional Medal of Honor Highway done at the National level. We've had the State Legislation. Keith, you've got some poster boards here after I am done. Thank you guys for your continued work here with the Senate Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Committee. Last month there was some discussion here about establishing a Vietnam War Veterans Day in Pennsylvania, as it is done at the National level. Two years ago, we did the Persian Gulf War Veterans Day as well as the Global War on Terror day in Pennsylvania. Senator Mastriano did introduce Senate Bill 1160. We are planning to take it up as early as next week. We will keep you apprised on that one. I also appreciate the Legislative Committee for giving us feedback here on Senate Bill 1139. That deals with notice of Veterans VA burial benefits through the County Directors and such. So appreciate your thoughts on that as well as the Senate Bill 1145 is the claim sharks legislation. I appreciate you guys taking a look at that seeing whether we can hit the right spot on that to get something done. The Legislative session and finally Senator Mastriano, Senator Pennycuick, Senator Allman, Senator Baker are working together on the Global War on terror bonus legislation. So when we put out a co-sponsor memo on that if you are able to contact your Senators right now ask them to sign on that would be extremely helpful. In the meantime we are working on the language. As you recall, the Persian Gulf War bonus was at the \$500 mark, we are taking a look at what that should be and really what the numbers should be overall, what we should estimate for as well as the individual number what they should receive on that front. We will keep you posted on all those things. Locally for tomorrow at Hampton Township right down the street at 2pm we are going to unveil an M60A1 tank. Congressman Scott Perry, Senator Mastriano, Senator Greg Rothman and Representative Sheryl Delozier will be joining me in unveiling the tank at the Hampton Township Veterans Park. I am going to send Kristen a note that she can afford to members if anybody is able to attend. We would love to have you there. Hopefully it is a good day like today and hopefully we will keep that for the rest of May. If there is any questions I will be happy to answer them.

Kerry Vanyo, Policy Research Analyst VAEP Committee: Hi everyone. Sorry I couldn't be there today we had a couple of conflicting meetings. So I am sorry I could not be there in person. So in terms of Veterans Legislation on the House side of things. I am here on behalf of Chairman Solomon had a meeting on the 15th of March, one Veteran related Bill House Resolution 387. Which originated the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to select the Pennsylvania National Guard as Sweden's state partner. So I am sure some of you are familiar that the National Guard is currently partnered with Lithuania. They are just adding it on or applying to add on an extra Country. A lot of other states have multiple countries that they have partnered with. So that Resolution and support of that initiative and then they have a meeting coming up this Monday. I believe there is one Veteran related Bill on the agenda. It is a newly introduced Resolution. I think it was just introduced either yesterday or the day before. I believe it is House Resolution 415 from Representative Scialabba and that is in support of Armed Forces Day. What is the update? I am sure it is going to if it hasn't given me an update already. We will update you about some of the other initiatives that you guys are concerned about including the disability pension payments and some other things on there so I will let Bob cover that in his update. That is all I have. Thank you

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Constitution and Bylaws: Gerald Hawk (AMVETS) – No report at this time.

Veterans Affairs & Policy: Chris Fidler (KPA) – No report

Membership: Chuck Jackson (MOAA) – No report

Legislative: Robert Gray (MOAA), – They took the tree down in the spring out here they process the limbs through the paper mill so I thought it was time to do another Legislative report. To give everyone an idea that the Legislative Committee has been doing something. I forgot to put it in the report. So I made notes here I have an update report on Veterans Transportation Network that DAV is working on as far as vans. David Gui can you make a couple of statements as far as a reference on what we are working on.

David Gui Disabled American Veterans: Recently we were able to purchase 12 new vehicles from Ford. The bad part about it is they are not adding to the fleet. They are repainting and replacing the aging fleet that we currently have. The price of vehicles has gone up tremendously. 2012 a 12 passenger van was about \$33,000. A 12 passenger van the last time we ordered one was \$60,000. So as you can see with the transportation grants staying relatively the same throughout the years, it just means fewer and fewer vehicles are able to be purchased.

Robert Gray (MOAA): Since the Legislative breakfast we talked to some Legislators on the House side as far as trying to raise the line item. Okay, and in relation to that Legislative Committee has been working with DAV with Vision 4 in reference to transportation. Part of that involvement was in the initial gathering of information from the hospitals, how many vehicles were there to match what the DAV had. Also, there the VTS system which is Veterans transportation system that is owned and operated by the VA itself. So out of the start of that there was a conversation started at the Vision level, that they had a concern and with programs where they were doing a pilot for using Uber to get to like specialty appointments. So they have actually hired a person to oversee this area for Vision 4. We met her on the last zoom call we added a couple months ago and now she is kind of heading a board that they are setting up for transportation in Vision 4. We are meeting with Vision 4 May 8th we are having another Zoom meeting to see what is coming up there. Because of the PACT Act and increase in the number of people coming to the VA addressing transportation because that is an issue. So that is something on the other hand we are working on. The real estate tax exemption case was working on that for us. In the latest update that you received this last month. We inquired the House, Veterans Affairs Committee as far as the status of getting something passed, to increase the earnings again, get something passed for the real estate tax exemption. It has been bouncing around with different Bills and finally there is one at least we agree on and they did say it is on the table this session. They hope to get something done before the session. So that is on the back burner to work on. There is some letter that were sent out that we approved or was sent based on our goals that we have already approved. There are three items in a report that we will bring up this morning on some Legislation that is outside of their goals. The first item is to increase the amount of the state Blinded Veteran Amputee pension and I could cover that. They are going to do a new Bill that has \$200 in there. There is some technical difficulties and perception. If you take a Bill that was \$250 and make it \$200 so what they are doing is a clean Bill for the \$200 a month payment for the Blind and Amputee Pension request for level War on Terrorism bonus. As Nate said they've released the Senate co-sponsorship memorandum and that has been posted on the General Assembly website and you are still working on language on that. ON May 2 PAWVC Committee I prepared a letter in support, introduced a Bill in the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and you have a copy of that letter that you are given this morning. Protection against claim sharks. We had quite a discussion about the last meeting and Senate Bill 1145. Senator Pennycuik introduced a Bill to add a Section in Pennsylvania Title 51 Military and Veterans Affairs annotating anyone that violated the federal procedures of the better credited Veteran Service Organizations and business, as far as limiting fees to a certain percentage, which is a really low percentage and that makes that a third degree felony and when the Committee reviewed that we were thinking but it really doesn't do anything to tell you what the procedures are and the federal regulations and thanks to Rich Hudzinski he found four different states had authorized Legislation in reference to this to the states that have Legislation passed, Maine just got theirs passed in the last few weeks and the way they are addressing it and

what we suggested in our letter was that it would be a consumer protection Bill and title fit, you might could refer to that. It needs to be enforceable under consumer protection laws in Pennsylvania, which are some of the strictest in the country. I've learned that working on payday lending back about 10 to 12 years ago as far as interest rates, so they can make this a section and they're specifically interesting businesses that are engaging in claims for Veterans that one thing whenever you go in for a bank loan or to buy a car there is a disclosure. Well that involves funding, it's the fair credit. Federal Fair Credit Act and disclosure as well as things from the state. So it spells out all your costs, any fees so you know what it is going to cost you in the end and so that is what we are recommending here by making a consumer protection law, which would be in if it is going to be a felony then that would fall under the Attorney Generals Office. Also it would be a state law, would be able to be enforced by the Court of Common Pleas in the District Attorneys in the counties. So there is a lot more teeth to putting it in a consumer protection and as we said, if you put it in Title 51 who is going to know about it you may be able to work with the Attorney General's office but if you call their helpline and say I am a Veteran and I think I am getting a raw deal on this and they will say What are you talking about? So it takes a lot of communication either way. On the Attorney General's website there is a section on Veterans and it could be added in there so it's be easy to find for anyone looking at the website. So we put our two cents in on that as far as making it a stronger enforceable Bill by being a consumer protection basis for disclosure and enforcement. I have three items to bring up for approval so we will just do it all together. You want to do each one? We don't need any other confusion. So what Legislative Committee is requesting since it's outside of our goals is to vote to send the letter on Senate Bill 1145 on the claim shark act and you have copies of that letter.

Spike Gyger (President): We have a motion to send the letter. Barb Loncar VFW, Nicholas Taylor (MOAA). Any questions? Hearing none all in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

Robert Gray (MOAA): The next item is something that is in the goals as far as Veterans Justice Project. The Legislative Committee sent a letter requesting Senate Judiciary Committee that they support the immediate passage of Senate Resolution 196 to provide needed time and needed timely review of how well the state is administering justice to those Veterans mentally and behaviorally were injured during military service and this letter had been sent out to the membership and will be sent to the Senate Judicial Committee chairs after the main meeting. The next item was Senate Bill 1139 notice of VA burial benefits. When we dug down into the belt maybe the definitions states in the Bill a Service Member and when we think of Service Members should be someone that is on active service or if they are deceased Service Member was while they were on active duty and when we look through the Bill there is no other than co-sponsorship, memorandum it states Veteran but nowhere in the Bill does it state Veteran. So it is under definitions it actually gave a reference for definition of service member and Jesiah may know this as far as in the county code of 1955. That states that the County Director or DMVA must be notified at the death of any Veteran within 96 hours and that in subsections that describes the definition of Service Member to also include any Veteran that dies at any point in time after leaving service. So for the Legislative reference bureau hey that is good. But it doesn't tell anybody when they are reading the actual Bill that it is for Veterans. So that was when we asked that we put into a letter to add the word Veteran into the language of the Bill. So it would be more explanatory to anyone that would read it. Also to the Senators they want to have co-sponsor it and so I am asking for a vote or to approve that letter to make that request to add Veteran to the language of the Bill.

Spike Gyger (President): Barb Loncar VFW. We have a motion on the floor Nicholas Taylor seconds the motion. Any questions?

Nicholas Taylor (MOAA): Just in reading it I just want to get it clear in my head that every Veteran is or has been a Service Member is the intent of this Bill to exclude service members who do not or cannot achieve Veteran status that they will not be included in this Bill?

Robert Gray (MOAA): Now that is why we want to have the word Veteran put in.

(Unknown): Veteran as well as Service Member.

Robert Gray (MOAA): We don't want there to be an exclusion which service.

Spike Gyger (President): Any other questions? We have a motion and a second. All in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

Robert Gray (MOAA): The next item is Senate Bill 1160 Vietnam War Veterans Day. We had quite a discussion last meeting in reference to you know everybody especially in the spring, everybody's weighing resolutions through this or that and as far as Resolution server Vietnam Veterans D-day or Vietnam War Veterans Day and they are doing it every year as a Senate Resolution or House Resolution and we asked since there is a National Vietnam Veterans Day, why can't the state put it into recurring? We did get a response from our friend Kerry Vanyo from the House Affairs Committee, in reference to the holidays and observances Title 38 which has served and holidays listed that are recurring at that date and to this point the Vietnam Veterans Day was not added to that. This bill adds Vietnam War Veterans Day to Title 38 holidays and observances for March 2019 and it will be put it into law. It recurs on that date every year and the Governor will issue a proclamation for claiming for that observance since that is outside of our goals, requesting a vote that we approve the letter of support for that Bill.

Larry Googins VVA I will make a motion to that effect. Barb Loncar VFW seconds the motion.

Spike Gyger (President): Any questions? Hearing none. All in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

Robert Gray (MOAA): Coming up on the homestretch. Under Bills of interest there is House Resolution 404 Representative Pielli urging Congress to support Major Richard Star Act. PAWVC Legislative Committee wants to contact the representative and also the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to find out if they could muster a joint House Senate Resolution calling for all of that. All of our organizations have been in Washington this spring. I think MOAA is probably one of the last in the middle of April. This was one of our main issues this year was trying to push a major victory star across the line. There is a very through brochure that was put out by MOAA and breaking it down by state how many Veterans are affected by the Richard Star Act in Pennsylvania 12,030 some Veterans in Pennsylvania they are being affected by the Richard Star and also let your members of Congress know there is six I think six or seven State Representatives and those Senators that have signed on to support the Major Richard Star Act. There is a few more that need to be convinced. House Bill 71 Representative Kerwin Gold Star families' memorial monument. It already passed the House April 8th and is in the Senate State Government Committee in the Senate and the Bill is merely to authorize a space on the Capitol Complex where the monument can be placed. That should eventually go through here so that can be started and that is mainly the only thing that bill is doing the actual monument is being funded by the Williams Foundation Medal of Honor, Woody Williams they founded a foundation as far to recognize Gold Star families and he sat down with an architect and designed the memorial himself. That will be placed below the Herbicide office building and above the forum in that area is what the proposal is.

The Legislative Committee will continue to be monthly by zoom. Our next scheduled meetings is Tuesday June 4th at 10am and the Committee will act on legislation relating to our goals and review other bills for comment. Any action requiring approval of a letter of support or non-support will be sent to the membership by email for a vote before any further action is taken by the Legislative Committee. So we are not going to run wild over the summer a bit. We will let you know if there is anything that comes up that we need to take action on. Any questions? I am glad we could get Joel out of the mountain fortress at Indiantown Gap where he doesn't have to wear a sweater to come to a meeting and at least I am the real part of the Post anyway.

Come to think of it we had the meeting, discussing multi-year, or extended at least grants for Act 66 and there is a little confusion on that. I guess that has been resolved as far as moving forward to administratively adjust the grants and possibly look at multiyear grants. The primary focus was to not get at the end of the rope and have to throw an anchor someplace to pull in additional money for a few months. At least by shifting the grant cycle past the budget at least they can cover that and if it goes to a multiple year grant which would be good for everyone as far stability that workforce and planning ahead. We are glad that we were able to meet the lesson as far as the opinions we had and we are able to do something administratively for a change rather than look for Legislation. Thank you DMVA. That is all I have.

Chuck Jackson (MOAA): I would like to record that I am online. I am using Rich's telephone. I have no report.

Honor Guard: Constance Snavelly (KPV) – No report

Troy Michaels (TAL): Good morning. I am going to go ahead and read off the reappointments first and then we will get into what is needed and a couple updates. The first one is for Hollidaysburg Veterans home. Robert Gray past President MOAA request the reappointment of J.D. Buchanan whose term expires on May 16th 2024. The second done that came in this morning that is from Jesiah Schrader from Gino J Murli President of the Pennsylvania County Director of Veterans Affairs request the reappointment of Lisa Kaye whose term expired on 4/5/24. Mr. President I make the motion that these appointments be accepted.

Barb Loncar VFW: Seconds the motion.

Spike Gyger (President): I have a motion and a second. Any questions? Hearing none. All in favor? Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

Troy Michaels (TAL): Thank you. So after our discussion last month regarding the appointments as it stands right now we are not going to be able to submit them early. So we will have to see how that continues to play out. As of right now they will not accept them early. There is still one other issue that needs to be addressed that I am working with the DMVA on and I am not going to get into the details at this time, but it has to do with an appointment for Delaware Valley Veterans Homes and specifically a reappointment. So that one is still showing vacant at this time. Moving on for the appointments that are needed for Delaware Valley Veterans Home. Allen Abramson either needs to be reappointed or we need to find a replacement and that term expired on 11/1/23. Samuel Huhn from the Blinded Veterans Association expires 11/1/23. Larry Holman Jewish War Veterans his term expired 11/1/22 and knowing that there is no representation we may need to find a replacement to get that appointment taken care of. The last one Bruce Boice from the DAV his appointment is pending and that is at the Governor's office. Questions on Delaware Valley?

Wanda Grover (BVA): My question is last month we did reappoint Samuel Huhn.

Troy Michaels (TAL): That is my fault. It is pending and I apologize for that. Any other questions on Delaware Valley? Moving forward Gino J Merli, Joseph Sylvester DAV that is a pending appointment. Do have another vacancy for the Blinded Veterans Association and that term expired on 4/5/23. We do need a reappointment letter from the VFW for Russell Canevari and that term expires 4/5/24 and one that just came in right before the meeting that I already read off was for Lisa Kay. So we will get that reappointment letter to the Governor's office and the DMVA. Questions on Gino J Merli. Moving on to Hollidaysburg we got a few here that we need to get taken care of and there is ones that are coming up rather quickly. Michael Mick Hoover the reappointment for Military Order of the Purple Heart needs to be completed that term expires 5/16/24. Henry Gaunt AMVETS that term expires also May 16, 2024. Thomas G Williams from the VFW that term expires May 16, 2024. I have already read off the reappointment for Jay Buchanan, David Wagner

from the DAV that one is pending with the Governor's office and the other one that is needed is Timothy Sussengill from VVA and that term expires on May 16, 2022 questions on Hollidaysburg? Moving on to Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home Karen Foust from the DAV that is a pending appointment and the last one is a vacancy from the Blinded Veterans Association and that one is vacant. So if anyone comes up with an appointment please let me know. Questions on Soldiers and Sailors Home? Southeastern Veterans Center Douglas Forsythe with DAV that term expired on 1/9/23 but that is a pending appointment with the Governor's office. Last one that is currently needed is Barry Amole from Vietnam Veterans Association that term expired on 1/9/22. Any questions on Southeast? Last one Southwestern Veterans Center Rommel Dacanay appointment needed for the Blinded Veteran Association that term expires 6/1/2020. R Michael Chuey is a pending appointment with the Governor's office. E James Lamison is also pending appointment from the AMVETS for the Governor's office. Timothy A Sager KPV that term is going to expire 6/1/24 and we will need a reappointment on that one. William Aronson we have had this one out there for a while. We are waiting for a bio again that is Military Order of the Purple Heart and last one is pending and that is Edward Hanke from the DAV again that is pending with the Governor's office. Any questions on Southwestern Veterans Center? Lastly any questions on the Advisory Council appointment? Thank you Mr. President.

Spike Gyger (President): Next on the agenda ACT 66.

ACT 66: Matthew Hollenbeck – Good Morning everybody one thing I have to report is that this will be my last meeting here with the ACT 66 Committee in the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council. I am sure some of you have heard that I am leaving this is true. I am leaving for Virginia to be closer to family for myself and my son. However, it has been one of the greatest privileges and honors to have served the Veterans of Pennsylvania and this council. So continue on with your good fight and I hope the best for all of you.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Nick Taylor MOAA: I have two. The first one is yesterday in my other capacity I attended the Governor's Advisory Council for Veterans services that was held at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. While there, I met some representatives from the clearing house for Military Family Readiness and their states mission is to help Service Members, Veterans, Military families, professionals serving Military families and finally school and community organizations. They asked me if I would make a motion to have them as our next speaker when we convene in September. So I would like to make a motion to allow the Clearing House for Military families to come and be our guest speaker for our next meeting.

Spike Gyger (President): We have a motion on the floor. Do we have a second? We have a motion and a second. Any questions? Hearing none all in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

Nick Taylor MOAA: For the second one. So you've probably heard about what is being termed VET CON that is being sponsored by the Department, Military and Veterans Affairs. It is tentative dates right now are September 4th to 6th in Pittsburgh more details to follow. I was asked by Woody since he is out of town to make a motion that the War Veteran Council in September will be held out there. I would like to make a motion to have our September meeting in Pittsburgh as part of the VET CON agenda.

Spike Gyger (President): We have a motion on the floor to move the War Veterans Council to Pittsburgh in September. . Do we have a second? Michael Rang CWV. We have a motion and a second. Any questions? Hearing none all in favor say Aye. Aye. Opposed? Ayes have it.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION

Mike Rang (CWV): Memorial Day Services at Fort Indian Town Gap cemetery May 22, 2024. This is co-sponsored by the Department. I would like to extend an invitation to everybody here and their Posts. Hopefully it will be a big day. It does start at 9am and goes to 2pm.

Barb Loncar (VFW): June 10th the Women's Veterans event at the Capitol hosted by Senator Pennycuik. So this if you go to her webpage you can sign up any women can sign up for that event.

Jesiah Schrader (County Directors Office): My term as President for the County Directors Association should be over in June and Alvin Loveless will be taking over as President. I should still be on as a delegate as the VP for the Association.

Wanda Grover (BVA): My question is we have several vacancies out there. Can we go ahead and submit those while we are on vacation or do we have to wait till September?

Spike Gyger (President): You can send them in.

BENEDICTION: Richard Denison (TAL)

RETIREMENT OF COLORS: Troy Michaels (TAL)

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
James "Woody" Hogan, Secretary